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22 May 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: ABM Committee Members

SUBJECT : Col. Wood's Papers on the ABM Study

1. Enclosed is the paper that Col. Wood proposed and prepared on the important questions on the Soviet ABM. It includes Tab A of his earlier paper.

2. The present paper indicates, on the basis of the limited impact of ABM intelligence on the capability of US strategic forces to inflict fatalities on the USSR and to limit fatalities in the US, that there is little need for information on the Soviet ABM system. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Col. Wood qualifies this conclusion to the extent of saying that there is a need for intelligence on certain courses open to the Soviets which could have significant effect on the US position: [REDACTED]

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3. The paper is more reasonable in tone and position than its predecessor. Nevertheless, and despite the fact that its main thrust is the over-valuation of ABM intelligence in toto, it is more than likely that Col. Wood still has the same reservations about the relative values of elements of ABM intelligence and (since it is just a logical extension of his position in this paper) about the need for [REDACTED]. Although Col. Wood probably would not agree, we believe that the few intelligence needs he cites would, when developed to the detail required by analysts to respond to such needs, lead to a network comparable in size and scope to the one developed by the Working Group and now in use.

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4. We would appreciate your views on the paper, either formally or informally, as soon as is convenient.



Chairman
ABM Study

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25X1A Distribution:

Original - [redacted] NIPE

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1 - Mr. Bross - NIPE

1 - Mr. Parrott - NIPE

1 - [redacted] - DDR&E

1 - [redacted] IA

1 - [redacted]

1 - Mr. Frank Perez - State Department

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1 - [redacted] NSA

1 - [redacted] DIA

1 - [redacted] - CIA

1 - Col. A. Wood - OSD(SA)

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